

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 00962 261611Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----030671 261613Z /40
R 261247Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6630

S E C R E T TEHRAN 0962

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS 2
TAGS: PEPR MILI XA IR SA UR CU
SUBJ: EFFORT TO OPEN CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION TO MENGISTU

REF A. STATE 20233 B. STATE 18370

1. I GREATLY APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED OF OUR ACTIONS CONCERNING THE HORN OF AFRICA SO THAT I CAN BE RESPONSIVE TO THE CONTINUING IRANIAN INTEREST IN THAT REGION. AT THE CURRENT MOMENT, THERE IS SOME SENSITIVITY HERE ON THE SUBJECT BECAUSE OF THE SHARP, PERSONALIZED REACTION FROM ADDIS ABABA TO THE SHAH'S RATHER CASUAL PUBLIC STATEMENT MADE AFTER THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT HERE.

2. AFTER DELIBERATE CONSIDERATION, I HAVE DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO INFORM THE SHAH AT THIS TIME OF OUR EFFORT TO OPEN A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION TO MENGISTU. IN THE FIRST PLACE, THE MESSAGE IS RATHER CRYPTIC. WE ALREADY HAVE EMBASSIES FUNCTIONING IN BOTH CAPITALS AND I WOULD BE HARD PRESSED

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TO EXPLAIN TO THE SHAH WHAT FURTHER ACTION THE MESSAGE IMPLIES. IN THE SECOND PLACE, OUR PURPOSE IN THIS EFFORT IS UNCLEAR AND WOULD, PERHAPS, CAUSE THE SHAH MORE CONCERN THAN IT WOULD GIVE HIM SATISFACTION.

3. I HAVE SIMILARLY REFRAINED FROM BRIEFING THE SHAH ON THE REPORT (REF B) OF THE FIVE-POWER MEETING IN WASHINGTON

BECUASE IT DID NOT SEEM TO ME THAT THE LINES OF DIRECTION
FOR SUBSEQUENT ACTION WERE ADEQUATELY CLEAR. THE VARIOUS
BILATERAL APPROACHES DO NOT APPEAR TO REPRESENT TECTICAL
CONSENSUS.

4. IN SHORT, I FEEL IT WOULD BE MORE USEFUL TO BRIEF THE
SHAH WHEN I CAN PRESENT HIM WITH SOME CLEAR CONCEPTUAL VIEW
OF OUR INTENTIONS NOT ONLY WITH RESPECT TO THE INITIATION OF
NEGOTIATIONS, BUT ALSO WITH RESPECT TO THEIR EVENTUAL OUTCOME,
BOTH IN TERMS OF A CONTEMPLATED STATUS FOR THE OGADEN AND
THE ELIMINATION OF EXTRA-CONTINENTAL MILITARY PRESENCE IN
ETHIOPIA.

5. REQUEST THIS MESSAGE BE PASSED TO AMBASSADOR WEST.
SULLIVAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 1-26-78
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TEHRAN00962
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840153-2090, N780002-0112
Format: TEL
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780117/aaaaaogo.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 92bc70df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 STATE 20233, 78 STATE 18370
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3705329
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EFFORT TO OPEN CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION TO MENGISTU
TAGS: PEPR, MILI, PBOR, CU, US, XA, IR, SA, UR, (MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/92bc70df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014